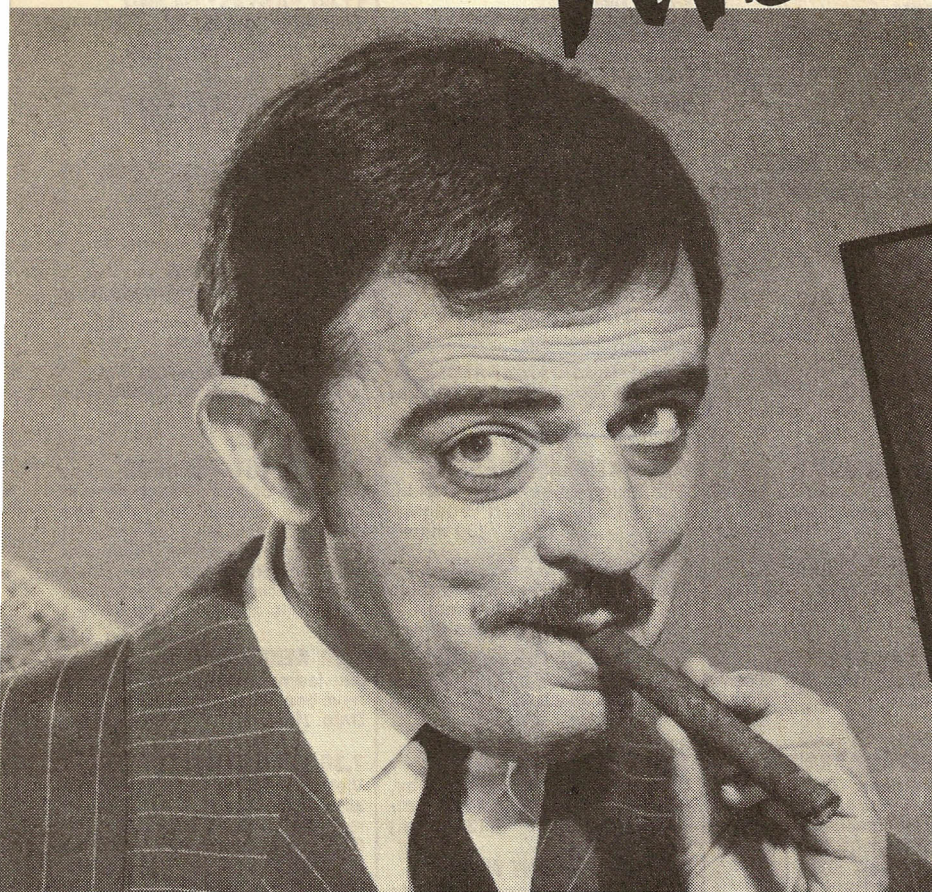


Ratings success 20  
years later. . .

# IT'S JUST THE THING

MAIN PHOTO: John Astin as the  
eccentric Gomez in *The Addams Family*.

INSET: John as he appears in the new  
comedy movie *Teen Wolf Too*.



**FORMER** *Addams Family* star John Astin is delighted to hear the series has taken off in Australia again.

The popular actor, currently starring in the comedy film *Teen Wolf Too*, couldn't believe it when told his old TV family — *Morticia*, *Wednesday*, *Pugsley*, *Uncle Fester*, *Cousin Itt* and *Thing* — is winning its timeslot on Australian television more than 20 years after it ceased production.

"It's really heartwarming to hear that," John told *TV WEEK* by phone from his home in Los Angeles. "It sort of demonstrates the show did have some value and a lasting universal appeal.

"It has, in a sense, never gone off the air — I think it has always played, somewhere, some time."

The half-hour sitcom, now a classic cult favorite, was axed in September, 1966, after just two years.

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"Many people are of the impression the show ran five or more years," John says.

"But in those days we did more shows a season, so there is the equivalent of three seasons.

"It was cancelled primarily, I think, because the person who was the head of the network at the time was never really crazy about the show and suspected it (the reason for the program's popularity) was some sort of fad for that kind of show and that fad was over."

Ironically, when John first auditioned for *The Addams Family* he was rejected — for the role of Lurch!

But the producer quickly offered him the lead role of Gomez and John won millions of fans playing the leering lawyer who always wore gangster-style suits.

John is one of the few *Addams Family* stars who continued successfully with his career.

Some of his most memorable television and film credits include *Batman* (as *The Riddler*), *Operation Petticoat*, *A Touch Of Mink*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Mary* (Mary Tyler Moore's series) and the cult comedy film *Evil Roy Slade*.

John's title role in *Evil Roy Slade* is similar to his character of a power-crazed college dean in *Teen Wolf Too*, which stars Jason Bateman as a teenager with a very hairy problem. The film is the sequel to *Teen Wolf*, which starred Michael J. Fox.

John enjoyed playing the nasty Dean Dunn, who relies on the teen wolf to improve the college's boxing squad.

"I modelled him on quite a few people I knew. There were elements of English professors, language professors and the occasional dean," John says.

*Kelly Bourne*